

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2618

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FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, CD
SUBJECT: FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

1. I APPLAUD THE INITIATIVE IN SEEKING TO FIND MORE IMAGINATIVE
WAYS TO EFFICIENTLY MOVE DEVELOPMENTAL RESOURCES TO AFRICA.
IT IS NO SECRET THAT I FIND OUR PRESENT PROGRAMS IN CHAD DULL
AND INEFFICIENT. I FIND THIS DOUBLY FRUSTRATING IN THAT
THE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS IN WHICH OUR
EXPERTISE IS UNIQUE. WE SEEM TO HAVE BECOME LOCKED INTO A
SITUATION IN WHICH WE IGNORE THESE PROGRAMS IN FAVOR OF MORE
NEBULOUS PROGRAMS IN OTHER AREAS. AMERICANS ARE THE MOST
SUCCESSFUL FARMERS AND BUILDERS IN THE WORLD, AND THESE
TWO AREAS ARE THOSE IN WHICH CHAD IS SADLY LACKING AND WHICH
MUST BE ADDRESSED BEFORE ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT
IS POSSIBLE.

2. WE DO HAVE SEVERAL PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF
AGRICULTURE, BUT ALL ARE AIMED AT STUDIES, RESEARCH
OR TRAINING AND ARE BASED ON THE WEAK PREMISE THAT AFTER
SUCH RESEARCH IS FINISHED OR NEW AGRICULTURAL AGENTS
TRAINED CHAD WILL BE IN A POSITION TO FURNISH THE FUNDS
FOR THEIR USE. AS THERE IS NO FORESEEABLE WAY IN WHICH
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THIS REQUIREMENT CAN BE MET BY CHAD, OUR PROGRAMS
WILL FOUNDER UNLESS WE UNDERTAKE LONG TERM BUDGETRY
SUPPORT IN ADDITION TO OUR PRESENT COMMITMENTS AND EVEN
IN THIS EVENT IT IS GOING TO BE DECADES BEFORE RESULTS
ARE APPARENT. ONLY ONE OF OUR PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL
PROJECTS HAS THE PROSPECT OF ACUTALLY GORWING ANYTING
(BOL POLDERS) AND THIS PROJECT CONTINUES TO BE BESEIGED BY

HORDES OF WELL MEANING BUT HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE
OBJECTIONS-- IF THE SAME CRITERIA WERE TO BE APPLIED TO
FARMING IN THE SOUTHWEST OF THE UNITED STATES IT WOULD
BE BROUGHT TO A SCHREECHING HALT.

3. A FINE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR AN AMERICAN AGRO-
BUSINESS CONCERNS, FUNDED BY AID, TO UNDERTAKE CROP
PRODUCTION PROGRAMS IN CHAD. THE AGRICULTURAL METHODS
USED WOULD HAVE TO DOWN PLAY MECHANIZATION AND STRESS
MANUAL LABOR, BUT THIS IS A PRAGMATIC ADJUSTMENT WELL
WITHIN THE CAPABILITY OF MOST SUCH COMPANIES. THE
IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF THESE PROJECTS WOULD BE IMMENSE
IN THAT THEY WOULD DIRECTLY INCREASE CHADIAN FOOD
PRODUCTION, CREATE JOBS AND PROVIDE CONCENTRATION
POINTS AT WHICH OTHER LONG RANGE SOCIAL PROGRAMS COULD
BE UNDERTAKEN. IN ADDITION, THEY WOULD SHOW THE KIND
OF CONCRETE RESULTS WE MUST HAVE IF WE ARE TO KEEP DONOR
ATTENTION AND INTEREST FOCUSED ON THE SAHEL.

4. PERHAPS CHAD'S GREATEST SINGLE PROBLEM IS ITS ALMOST
COMPLETE LACK OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE. IN
AN AREA ALMOST TWICE THE SIZE OF TEXAS THERE ARE 180,000 MILES
OF QUOTE ROADS UNQUOTE, 180 MILES OF WHICH ARE PAVED;
THERE IS NOT A SINGLE MILE OF RAILROAD TRACK: THE
WATERWAYS ARE NOT NAVIGABLE (EXCEPT AT FLOOD STAGE); AND
THE RIVERS ARE SPANNED BY ANTIQUATED FERRIES. IN SUCH A
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SITUATION, EVEN IF CHAD WERE TO GROW ENOUGH CROPS IN THE
SOUTH TO BE SELF SUFFICIENT IT COULD NOT MOVE THEM TO THE
POINTS OF NEED UNDER DROUGHT CONDITIONS. LIKE
AGRICULTURE, ROAD BUILDING IS A FIELD IN WHICH WE HAVE
GREAT EXPERTISE AND IN WHICH DRAMATIC RESULTS COULD BE
ACHIEVED.

5. TWO NEW AREAS IN THE CREATION OF TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE, WHICH COULD INVOLVE PRIVATE COMPANIES
AND WHICH ARE UNEXPLORED TO DATE, ARE TOLL ROADS AND
LAND GRANTS. TOLLS ARE NOT ALIEN TO AFRICANS AND ARE AN
ALREADY ACCEPTED USE TO PAY FOR RIVER CROSSINGS.
SOME SORT OF TOLL ROADS PARTICULARLY FOR TURCKS WOULD BE
COMPLETELY FEASIBLE. IN ADDITION, THE LAND
GRANT SYSTEM USED IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE 19TH
CENTURY TO ENCOURAGE THE CONSTRUCTION OF
RAILROADS WOULD SEEM TO BE A NATURAL FOR USE IN ROAD
CONSTRUCTION IN COUNTRIES LIKE CHAD WHERE FUNDS ARE
SHORT BUT LAND PLENTIFUL. LAND ACQUIRED UNDER SUCH A
SCHEME WOULD IN THE LONG RUN APPRECIATE IN VALUE, IN THE
SHORTER TERM IT COULD BE PUT ON THE COMPANIES BOOKS AS AN
ASSET AND USED AS COLLATERAL IN THE CAPITALIZATION OF

FURTHER CONSTRUCTION. HOWEVER, BY ITS VERY NATURE IT WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE REPATRIATION. THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD BE HIGHLY POPULAR WITH THE AFRICANS.

6. A SUPPLEMENTAL ADVANTAGE TO PROGRAMS IN LARGE SCALE AGRICULTURE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION IS THAT ON A COMPARATIVE BASIS THEY WOULD USE MUCH MORE LOCAL LABOR AND MANY FEWER EXPATRIATES. ALSO THEY WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO AID IN SOLVING WHAT IT CONSIDERS ONE OF ITS MAJOR PROBLEMS IN KEEPING THE MOMENTUM OF THE SAHEL PROGRAM: THAT OF LARGE SCALE OBLIGATION. SUCH PROJECTS TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY WHICH MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE IN LARGE TRANCHES.

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7. ON THE MORE GENERAL LEVEL, THE CONCEPT OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT IS UNASSAILABLE FROM THE THEORETICAL STANDPOINT. HOWEVER, ON THE PRACTICAL LEVEL IT CONTAINS THE HIDDEN TRAP OF OVER DISPERSION OF EFFORT. AFRICA HAS MANY IMMENSE NEEDS AND IF WE START ADDRESSING ALL OF THEM AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL END UP WITH MANY SMALL VARIED AREAS OF INTEREST. THESE WILL NOT ONLY FAIL TO SHOW LITTLE IN THE WAYS OF RESULTS, BUT BY THEIR NATURE WILL REQUIRE EXCESSIVE OVER HEAD AND PERSONNEL. FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD EASILY QUADRUPE THE SIZE OF OUR PRESENT CHADIAN PROGRAM WHILE REDUCING OUR AMERICAN STAFF BY 50 PERCENT, IF WE WERE TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORT IN THE TWO AREAS OF AGRICULTURE AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE INSTEAD OF TRYING TO ENTER IN EACH FACET OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT. BRADFORD

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